

has allocated any amount, or given a pilot project or given any instructions to the Central Research Laboratory keeping in view the impact of this research on the entire economy.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: There is no such proposal.

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: My second supplementary is, whether the Government has tested the efficiency of propane driven vehicles? If so, in what way it is different from CNG or petrol driven vehicles?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The technology is being looked into.

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: Sir, both the answers are not satisfactory.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: This is the direction of the Supreme Court. Whatever the Supreme Court say, we have to adhere to that.

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: Sir, the Petroleum Ministry is one of the most important Ministries. How come the Ministry is not prepared? This is an important question as it is going to decide the entire economy.

MR. SPEAKER: Whether you are satisfied or not satisfied, this is a subjective thing.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: The Bijoypur plant of GAIL has sent a proposal to Government of India stating that it can produce 700 MT. of propane daily. Whether you are going to accept this proposal? If not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: In fact, the Bijoypur Plant has been instructed to help the private companies. As per the High Court's order, we have to help the private company. GAIL is ready to supply Propane from the Bijoypur Plant. Let us wait for the technical feasibility study.

Dul-Hasti Hydel Power Project

*66. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the execution of dul-hasti Hydel Power Project has been taken over by the NHPC;

(b) if so, present estimated cost; the original cost of the project and amount spent thereon so far, year-wise;

(c) the amount paid to French Consortium, the details of the agreement and the penalty imposed for violation of the agreement;

(d) whether the services of any new foreign agency are being acquired or the task will be completed by the NHPC on its own;

(e) the works done during 1995-96 and also during the current year; and

(f) the time schedule for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The project was sanctioned in 1989 for turn-key execution at a cost of Rs. 1,262.97 crores (at 1988 price level) to a French consortium of firms consisting of M/s Coyne Et Bellier (COB); M/s Dumez, Sogea & Borie (DSB); M/s CEGELEC; M/s COMELEX; and M/s SEITP.

The revised cost of the project is Rs. 3,559.77 crores (November 1996 price level). The amount spent year-wise on the project is given in the annexure enclosed.

(c) The original agreement with the Consortium had envisaged completion of the project within 57 months from the date of order i.e. October 1989. However, the work on the project was suspended in August 1992 by the French Consortium due to disturbed law and order conditions at the project site. With a view to resuming the work on the project, discussions were held and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed between National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and the French Consortium. In pursuance of the MOU, a rescission agreement was signed in June 1995, according to which M/s DSB, the civil contractor, paid to NHPC an amount of 50 million French Francs (about Rs. 28 crores) as full and final settlement. However, the MOU permitted other four members of the Consortium to continue with the implementation of the project. The French Consortium has been paid Rs. 968 Crores upto January, 1997.

(d) After withdrawal of M/s DSB, NHPC took over the plant and machinery of M/s DSB and the civil works were taken up departmentally in 1995. With a view to completing the balance civil works, NHPC has issued a letter of intent to a new civil contractor. (a Consortium comprising of Indian and Norwegian firms). The letter of award will be issued shortly. Required funds for completion of the project will be provided.

(e) During 1995-96 and 1996-97 excavation works in the head race tunnel, power house, switchyard and transformer cavern have been carried out.

(f) The estimated time schedule for completion of the project is March, 2001.

Annexure

Year-wise amount spent on Dulhasti Hydro-electric Project (J & K) is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2
1980-81	0.03
1981-82	1.83

1	2
1982-83	1.06
1983-84	8.79
1984-85	14.34
1985-86	17.81
1986-87	2.20
1987-88	10.56
1988-89	14.34
1989-90	167.01
1990-91	180.46
1991-92	197.85
1992-93	176.17
1993-94	152.78
1994-95	112.90
1995-96	287.92
1996-97 (upto 1/97)	143.39
Total upto Jan '97	1489.44

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to Dulhasti Project. In his reply the hon. Minister has stated that this project was started in 1989. From the details that have been given, it can be seen that an amount of Rs. 71 crore were spent on the project during 1980-1989. Between 1989 and 1992, the expenditure was Rs. 545.32 crore. Thereafter from 1992 to 1997, the amount spent on the project was Rs. 873.16 crore. The work on the project was started in 1989 and in 1989 itself insurgency in the State started. In the meantime the contracting firm abandoned the work and ran away. Even during this period, expenditure has been shown. The firm stopped work in 1992, but between 1992 and 1997, an amount of Rs. 968 crore is shown to have been paid. I want to know what for this payment was made?

MR. SPEAKER: If you want a reply, half a minute is left.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: I want to know why this payment is being made to that firm?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: The project was actually sanctioned in the year 1982 but the work on the project was commenced in the year 1989. In the year 1989 it was sanctioned for turn-key execution to a French Consortium of five companies. The tentative programme for the completion of the project was 57 months and the amount sanctioned was Rs. 1,263 crores out of which French credit

was Rs. 845.97 crore. Out of five members of consortium, one civil contractor suspended the work due to law and order problem. Two of their members were kidnapped by the militants, which created a law and order problem.

12.00 hrs.

After holding several meetings, an MOU had been signed between the NHPC and the French Consortium in the year 1994. Based on the agreement, the French company has given Rs. 28 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: What about the payment?

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: My question is that the firm abandoned the work in 1992. Then on militancy has heightened up in the State. I want to know why this payment is being made after all? Last year, an amount of Rs. 2 crore was paid. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over Gupta Ji. I cautioned you to put a short question but you did not listen to me.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Water Scarcity In Gujarat

*67. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any scheme under accelerated urban water supply programme and other schemes to the Union Government seeking funds to ensure supply of drinking water to water starved towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (c) Eight schemes were received from the Government of Gujarat under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme and the same were sanctioned as per details given in the Statement laid on the Table of the Sabha. However, no specific scheme has been received to supply drinking water under the caption "water starved towns".